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Agenda item 58 (b)

REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS: TRANSPARENCY OF MILITARY EXPENDITURES

Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: revised draft resolution

Transparency of military expenditures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, which introduced the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, 46/25 of 6 December 1991 and 47/54 B of 9 December 1992, dealing with the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters,

Noting that since then national reports on military expenditures have voluntarily been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographic regions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for providing Member States with the reports on military expenditures,

Welcoming the decision of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, as contained in the 1990 Vienna Document of the negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures, 1/ to exchange information annually on their military budgets, on the basis of the categories of the United Nations standardized reporting system,

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1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IX.8, appendix III, p. 488.

Welcoming also the recent progress achieved in arms limitations and disarmament, which, in the long term, will lead to significant reductions in military expenditures,

Convinced that the end of the East-West confrontation and the resulting improvement of international relations form a sound basis for promoting further openness and transparency on all military matters,

Emphasizing that an increased flow and exchange of information on military expenditures will contribute to the predictability of military activities, thus strengthening international peace and security on a global and regional level,

Recalling that the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters stated that the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures should continue in operation and could be further improved,

1. Calls upon all Member States to participate in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures as adopted by the General Assembly;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on ways and means to strengthen, and to broaden participation in, the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures and to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled "Transparency of military expenditures".